AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-11. **Cancelled**

12. **(Currently amended)** A method for identifying substances modulating ~~activity of~~ reabsorption of sodium chloride or Cl^- transport by a ~~polypeptide derived from~~ chloride channel Kb (ClCKb) protein wherein said protein is genetically altered at amino acid position 481 compared to wild type (SEQ ID NO: 1), comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said ~~polypeptide~~ protein with a test substance, under conditions allowing the binding of said test substance to said ~~polypeptide~~ protein, and

(b) determining, whether said test substance modulates reabsorption of sodium chloride or Cl^- transport by ~~the activity of~~ said ~~polypeptide~~ protein,

~~wherein said polypeptide comprises said amino acid as position 481 of the ClCKb protein~~.

13. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 12, wherein said genetic alteration is an amino acid exchange.

14. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 13, wherein by said amino acid exchange a threonine molecule is changed for a serine molecule ($C1CKb^{T481S}$).

15. **(Original)** The method according Claim 12, wherein said determination in step (b) is performed via ion current measurements, preferably via chloride ion current measurements, across a biological cell membrane.

16. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 15, wherein said ion current measurements are performed via patch clamp and/or voltage clamp technology.

17. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 15, wherein in step (b) it is determined whether said test substance inhibits ion current across said biological cell membrane.

18.-26. **Cancelled**